

## Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6964

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PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SOPN, IN

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED MINISTERIAL MEETING ON PRESS AGENCIES POOL

REF: NEW DELHI 9435

1. INDIA WILL HOST MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES JULY 8 TO JULY 13 WHICH WILL ELABORATE FINAL PLANS FOR A NEWS AGENCY POOL TO BE FORMALLY SET IN MOTION AT NAM SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. GOI HOPES THAT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WILL GO BEYOND MERE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF NEWS POOL TO DISCUSS BROADER ISSUES OF COMMUNICATION AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED, BUT THERE IS NO CURRENT EXPECTATION HERE THAT CONFERENCE WILL TAKE UP POLITICAL ISSUES.

2. PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEM FOR MEETING IS WORK ON DRAFT "CONSTITUTION" FOR NEWS AGENCY POOL. ACCORDING TO GOI OFFICIAL AND LOCAL TANJUG CORRESPONDENT, THIS REQUIRES SOME AGREEMENT ON NATURE OF COMMUNICATIONS LINKS BETWEEN EXISTING NATIONAL NEWS SERVICES, COSTS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE POOL, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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(HEADQUARTERS, REGIONAL OFFICES), AND METHODS FOR

ASSISTING NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS WHICH HAVE NO NEWS AGENCY OF THEIR OWN. TANJUG MAN COMMENTED THAT POOL ALREADY EXISTED SINCE TANJUG HAD BEGUN COLLECTING AND DISSEMINATING A FEW ITEMS DAILY SLUGGED "POOL ITEM," USING ITS OWN TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AND BEARING THE COST ITSELF. GOI OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WE HAVE SPOKEN TO HERE REAFFIRM THAT THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL NOT BE A NEWS GATHERING AGENCY ITSELF.

3. THE GOI IS FIELDING A 34 MAN DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION V.C. SHUKLA AND THE WELL-CONNECTED MOHAMMAD YUNUS, THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ENVOY WHO LED INDIAN DELEGATION TO TUNIS MEETING. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND THREE OTHER MINISTERIAL SECRETARIES ARE ON THE DELEGATION LIST, ALONG WITH A PARLIAMENTARY CONTINGENT AND PRESS INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. THE GOI EXPECTS ABOUT FIFTEEN OTHER DELEGATIONS TO BE LED BY INFORMATION MINISTERS OR THEIR EQUIVALENTS. (THE YUGOSLAVS, SYRIANS, AND IRAQIS INTER ALIA.) THE MAJORITY OF PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, WILL BE LOWER RANKING. (THE EGYPTIANS AND PERUVIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE BRINGING

DELEGATIONS FROM THEIR CAPITALS; THE GUYANESE WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THEIR HIGH COMMISSIONER.)

4. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PAO AND DEPUTY PAO, A.N.D. HAKSAR, HEAD OF EXTERNAL PUBLICITY DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SAID HIS MINISTRY WAS PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS BEFORE CONFERENCE. LARGE NUMBER OF MINISTERS ATTENDING MEANT, IN HAKSAR'S VIEW, THAT CONFERENCE WOULD GET INVOLVED IN BROADER ISSUES. HE MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR EXCHANGES OF MEDIA MATERIAL BEYOND THE NEWS POOL, TELEVISION PROGRAMS, FOR EXAMPLE. SECONDLY, HE THOUGHT THE MINISTERS WOULD CONSIDER THE PROBLEM OF POOR COMMUNICATIONS LINKS BETWEEN THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. IT COST MORE, HE NOTED, TO SEND A TELEGRAM TO KABUL THAN TO SEND ONE TO LONDON.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THE PRESENCE OF MINISTERS AT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT LEAD TO SOME DEVELOPMENTS BEYOND THE MERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSTITUTION OF THE NEWS POOL, NO ONE WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH HERE IS EXPECTING CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ITEMS TO ARISE. AS ONE NON-ALIGNED DIPLOMAT SAID, THERE WILL BE SOME OF THE "REQUIRED RHETORIC." MINISTERS' PERSONAL ENTHUSIASMS MAY MAKE THAT RHETORIC CONTENTIOUS AND/OR OFFENSIVE TO US AT TIMES.

6. REQUEST DEPT REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.

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## Message Attributes

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